Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CPR-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /041 W

-----101309Z 123888 /53

O 101200Z FEB 77 FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1229

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E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: PFOR, IR

SUBJ: REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO SHAH

REF: STATE 28868

1. LOCAL RADIO, TV AND PRESS ON FEBRUARY 9 AND 10 PROMINENTLY FEATURED PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE TO THE SHAH, CARRYING FULL TEXT IN FARSI OR ENGLISH IN MOST CASES. COMMENTARY FOCUSED ON CARTER'S DESIRE TO DRAW ON THE SHAH'S "LONG EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS" AND "TO MAINTAIN A FIRM RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN THE US AND IRAN. TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS REPORTS BEING SENT USINFO.

2. FRONT-PAGE HEADLINED KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL REPORT NOTED THAT "DIPLO

MATIC OBSERVERS IN TEHRAN" LAST NIGHT ATTACHED CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A LENGTHY AND CAREFULLY DRAFTED MESSAGE. COMING FROM A NEW ADMINISTRATION, THE MESSAGE WAS SEEN AS A SOLID REAFFIRMATION OF THE TRADITIONALLY CLOSE TIES BETWEEN IRAN AND THE U.S. CARGER'S HOPE THAT THE SHAH WOULD WRITE TO HIM DIRECTLY WILL REINFORCE THE PERSONAL AND CLOSE CONTACTS THAT HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN THE IRANIAN HEAD OF STATE AND A SUCCESSION OF AMERICAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESIDENTS. OTHER MEDIA PLAY WAS ALONG SIMILAR LINES.

3. COMMENT: SHAH WAS CLEARLY DELIGHTED WITH WARMTH AND TONE OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AS REFLECTED IN THE UNUSUAL PROMINENCE AND EXTENT OF MEDIA PLAY AND STRESS ON REAFFIRMATION OF CLOSE US/IRANIAN RELATIONSHIP WHICH NEW ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO MAINTAIN. AS WE HAVE NOTED IN THE PST, FORM IS

OFTEN AS IMPORTANT AS SUBSTANCE HERE AND PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MET BOTH REQUIREMENTS SUPERBLY IN REASSURING WHAT WE DETECTED TO BE AN INCREASINGLY NERVOUS SHAH AND GOI ABOUT FUTURE DIRECTION US/IRANIAN RELATIONS. NEXT STEP WILL BE APPOINTMENT OF NEW AMBASSADOR WHO IS SEEN AS INDIVIDUAL OF STATURE ENJOYING COMPLETE CONFIDENCE OF PRESIDENT.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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Subject: REACTION TO PRESIDENT\'S MESSAGE TO SHAH

TAGS: PFOR, PPDC, IR, (CARTER, JIMMY), (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMAD REZA)

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